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COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-first session
13 May-7 June 1991
Agenda item 7

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Boris GOUDIMA (Ukrainian SSR)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 3. Political and Security Council Affairs

1. At its 19th meeting, on 24 May, the Committee considered section 3 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations expressed their appreciation for the work of the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs in the servicing of the Security Council and its Committees.

3. A number of delegations expressed regret at the late issuance of official records and other documents for whose preparation of printing provision was made in section 3. Some delegations queried the value of issuing such documents at all if they were seriously delayed. A number of delegations also queried the proposed provisions for personal computers and it was stressed that proper control should be exercised over expenditures on such equipment.

4. Some delegations queried the periodicity of a number of the directories and other publications to be prepared under subprogramme 3 and felt that issuance of such material on an annual basis would be adequate. Other delegations doubted whether the provision for fellowships to allow participants from developing countries to attend seminars and training programmes on aspects of the peaceful uses of outer space was adequate and stressed the importance of these activities.

5. Delegations expressed different views on the venue of the Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. It had been proposed that its meetings should be held alternately at Headquarters and Geneva.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. The Committee also noted the priorities which had been proposed.

7. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 3 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

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Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Boris GOUDIMA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 4. Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services

1. At its 27th meeting, on 30 May, the Committee considered section 4 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations queried the rationale for maintaining separate Divisions for General Assembly Affairs and for Economic and Social Council Affairs and Secretariat Services and suggested a merger would enhance efficiency. Other delegations stated that such a merger might not be desirable in the context of the efforts at revitalization of the Economic and Social Council. Reference was also made to the prerogatives of the Secretary-General as chief administrative officer of the Organization.

3. A number of delegations questioned the rationale for the dispersion of editorial functions, both within the Office for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services and between that Office and the Department for Conference Services. It was suggested that consolidation of such functions under the Department for Conference Services would promote efficiency and economy in this important area of work. One delegation did not accept the proposed increase in the resources for the Division for Palestinian Rights.

4. A number of delegations stressed that subprogramme 4, Question of Palestine: exercise by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights, should be given high priority, and that the resources of the Division for Palestinian Rights should be strengthened.

5. With regard to the new post proposed in this section, which is to enhance the Office's editorial capacity, it was suggested that a reduction in the volume of documentation and the production of documents on schedule would be preferable.

6. The proposed reclassifications of posts, other than that referred to in paragraph 4.20, were questioned by several delegations and supported by others.

Reservation

7. One delegation expressed its objection to the activities of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Division for Palestinian Rights.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. The Committee welcomed the programming of activities under subprogrammes 1, 2 and 3 following approval for the first time of the related programme in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

9. The Committee noted however that no priorities were proposed among the activities programmed in this section.

10. The Committee further recommended that the Secretary-General keep the question of the organization of editorial services under review and report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

11. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 4 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

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Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Boris GOUDIMA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 5. Disarmament

1. At its 28th meeting, on 30 May 1991, the Committee considered section 5 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. Several delegations, in registering their support and appreciation of the overall work of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, expressed concern that the rate of real growth of 0.6 per cent did not properly reflect the high priority accorded to disarmament activities by the General Assembly. They expressed the hope that the implementation by the Department of its mandated activities would not be hindered by such a modest growth. Other delegations expressed the view that the proposed rate of real growth was too high.

3. Some delegations were of the view that continuing efforts to rationalize the work of the First Committee should, in turn, lead to a reduction in substantive servicing requirements by the Department.

4. Some delegations in expressing doubts about the continued relevance of the World Disarmament Campaign, questioned the scope of the disarmament publications programme given the changes in the international climate. Several other delegations expressed their support for the World Disarmament Campaign. Several delegations stressed the need for adequate resources to be allocated to it so that it might achieve its objectives.

5. One delegation expressed concern about the backlog in the publication of the Disarmament Yearbook and the periodical, Disarmament and called upon the Secretariat to eliminate the backlog. That delegation also sought assurances that adequate resources were included in the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993 for the production of disarmament publications in all official languages of the United Nations.

6. Some delegations expressed strong support for increased resources to be allocated for regional activities on disarmament in general and for regional centres for peace and disarmament, in particular. Others did not share this view. In this regard, one delegation supported the creation of a new post for the centre at Kathmandu while another delegation felt that the creation of a new post at this centre was not justified.

7. Some delegations questioned the justification for the reclassification proposed for the administrative officer of the Department, while others expressed their support.

8. Several delegations expressed appreciation of the disarmament fellowships programme and suggested that the Committee might review the programme with a view to strengthening this activity. Another delegation questioned the costs associated with this programme.

9. While some delegations queried the continuing subvention made from the regular budget to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), several other delegations supported the Institute and its work. Several delegations expressed the opinion that the subvention to UNIDIR should be of a recurrent nature. Other delegations queried whether intensive efforts had been made to attract more voluntary contributions for the Institute.

Conclusion and recommendation

10. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 5 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

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ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Boris GOUDIMA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 6. Special Political Questions; Regional Cooperation; Trusteeship and Decolonization

1. At its 29th meeting, on 31 May, the Committee considered section 6 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations expressed the view that the activities to be carried out under programme 37, subprogramme 4, Special emergency programmes, did not belong to section 6. Such activities were very similar to those programmed under Section 30, Disaster relief operations, and section 29A, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Fragmentation of activities and responsibilities for the implementation of programmes should be avoided.

3. Some delegations questioned the programme of work and the requirements requested for subprogrammes 1 and 2. This comment applied to the Trusteeship Council and to the Committee of 27. It was noted that within the last Trust Territory, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, only Palau remains under the Trusteeship system. Other delegations expressed their support for the mandates and activities proposed in this section.

4. A number of delegations also requested information about the number of meetings anticipated for the Trusteeship Council.

5. With regard to the proposed conversion of 12 posts from temporary to established status, several delegations were not convinced of the merits of the proposal since, in their view, the activities in this section were transitory. These delegations stated that sufficient justification had not been provided for the proposed conversion.

6. Different views were expressed on the proposed redeployment of a D-2 post from subprogramme 2, Trusteeship and Decolonization, to subprogramme 4, Special emergency programmes. Several delegations supported this proposal. Others expressed doubts on its justification. Still others indicated that it might negatively affect the implementation of subprogramme 2. A number of delegations indicated that more resources should be allocated to subprogramme 4.

7. The view was expressed that, in the light of the phased decrease in the workload of the Transitional Unit through the expiration of the residual programmes of Namibia in 1994, a corresponding decrease in resources should have been made.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. The Committee recommended that the results of the review requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/248, section B, paragraph 13, on the functions of the Unit for Special Emergency Programmes should be brought to the attention of the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

9. The Committee recommended that the programme narrative of section 6 should be revised so as to read at the end of paragraph 6.18 "in pursuance of resolutions of the General Assembly and United Nations organs." The Committee further recommended that the number and volume of activities should be adjusted to take account of the requirements necessary to fulfil those decisions.

10. The Committee noted the proposed resource allocation in this section and recommended that the Secretary-General should review this proposed allocation in the light of recent developments and recommended that, in order to assist the General Assembly, revised estimates should be submitted to the forty-sixth session. Any proposals in that regard should have no negative impact on the Organization's ability to carry out mandated activities under subprogramme 2,

both in respect of the remaining territories on the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories and in respect of the trusteeship system.

11. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 6 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 subject to the above conclusions.